



# NEWS RELEASE

*Office of the  
United States Attorney  
for the  
District of Nebraska*  
**Joe W. Stecher**

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January 13, 2009

United States Attorney Joe Stecher and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service announce the following information for the attention of the media:

**Event Triggering this Release:** On January 13, 2009, United States Magistrate Judge Thomas D. Thalken sentenced Joshua and Tana Holle for their convictions of interstate transportation of wildlife taken in violation of state law. Tana Holle was convicted on one count and was ordered to serve a three year term of probation, pay a \$500 fine and \$1,250 in restitution, and perform a total of 150 hours of community service. Joshua Holle was convicted on four counts and was ordered to serve a five year term of probation, pay a \$3,000 fine and \$4,500 in restitution, and perform a total of 250 hours of community service. As a condition of probation, both Tana Holle and Joshua Holle were ordered to refrain from hunting for three years.

Joshua Holle and Tana Holle are residents of Kansas. In 2006, the Holles each obtained a Kansas landowner permit to take a whitetail deer. However, the investigation revealed that the Holles were not eligible for such a permit. In 2006, Tana Holle killed a whitetail, 5x6 trophy deer with her unlawful permit and had Joshua Holle transport it to a taxidermist in Nebraska to be mounted. In 2006, Joshua Holle killed a whitetail, 5x5 deer and attempted to use his unlawful rifle season permit to claim it, when, in fact, he killed it with archery equipment. Joshua Holle transported this deer to the taxidermist as well. Joshua Holle also killed two other white tail deer without proper permits.

In 2007, Joshua Holle purchased a bobcat which had been taken by another person near Clay Center, Nebraska. Holle did not have either a fur harvestor's license or a fur buyer's license to enable him to lawfully purchase and possess the bobcat. Joshua Holle transported the bobcat from Nebraska to Kansas where he enlisted the services of Tana Holle and another individual to have the bobcat tagged by a Kansas wildlife official by falsely claiming the other individual had trapped the bobcat in Kansas. Joshua Holle then brought the bobcat back to Nebraska to be mounted by a taxidermist. Holle subsequently purchased a second bobcat in Nebraska. Both bobcats were mounted and were brought back to Holle's residence in Kansas.

**Name of Defendant:** Joshua Holle and Tana Holle

**AKA:**

**Crime(s) Charged and Potential Penalty** (A CHARGE is merely an accusation and every defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty): The Holles were charged with interstate shipment of wildlife taken in violation of state law. The maximum statutory punishment for this offense is one year of imprisonment, a \$100,000 fine, and one year of supervised release.

**Specific Location of Alleged Crime:** Odell and Liberty, Nebraska

**Location of Arrest:** defendants appeared pursuant to a summons

**Alleged Dollar Loss/Type and Quantity of Drug:**

**Others Charged in Same Scheme:**

**Relevant Dates:**

**Date of Alleged Crime:** December 6, 2006 through February 27, 2007

**Federal Arrest Date:**

**Date Complaint Issued:**

**Indictment Returned Date:** Information filed January 3, 2008

**Initial Appearance Date:** February 5, 2008

**Plea or Trial and Date(s):** Plea entered on October 28, 2008

**Sentencing Date:** January 13, 2009

**Next Court Hearing Type and Date:** N/A

**Assigned Magistrate Judge:** Honorable Thomas D. Thalken

**Held without Bond, or Released from Custody:** released from custody

**In Continuous Custody Since:**

**Assigned District Court Judge:** Defendants consented to proceeding before the Magistrate Judge.

**Initials of Assigned AUSA/Preparer of THIS Release:** DRS